15. (Amended) The filament of Claim 19, wherein the functionalized chain extender moieities, each independently, are selected from the group consisting of bis-N-acyl bislactam moieties.

16. (Amended) The filament of Claim 15, wherein the chain extender moieties, each independently, are selected from the group consisting of an isophthaloyl bis-caprolactam moiety, an adipoyl bis-caprolactam moeiety, (p-phenylene di-terephthalate) N'N bis-caprolactam, and a terphthaloyl bis-caprolactam moiety.

Please delete claim 14 and add new claims 19 and 20 as follows:
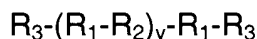
-- 19. A filament, comprising:

a synthetic melt spun polymer including:

polyamide repeating units (R_1);

polyamide chain extender moieties (R_2), each independently selected from the group consisting of functionalized bis-N-acyl bislactam moieties; and

terminal groups (R_3) comprising at least one of a hydrogen atom and a hydroxyl group;

the polymer including chains, each independently having a chemical structure:

$$R_3-(R_1-R_2)_y-R_1-R_3$$

wherein y is an integer of 1 – 14; and

the filament has a formic acid relative viscosity of at least about 30.

20. The filament of claim 19, wherein R_1 includes functionalized diamine or functionalized triamine units. --

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on October 18, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that in claim 12, the term "functional" is indefinite because it is unclear if or how such further limits the diamine and triamine units. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The term functional means that a small portion of the polyamide is replaced by an amine compound to change the properties of the polyamide. Examples of suitable functional amine compounds are given on pages 6 and 7 of the specification. Thus, this rejection of claim 12 is respectfully